

# EAGAN CURSED WHEN TOLD HAD BEEN REJECTED BY HONEST ARMY OFFICERS.

Admits That Bids for Embalmed Beef Were Received—General Alger Approved the Contract, Which Was Changed to Suit the Packers.

Washington, March 29.—"When I came back from Porto Rico, I called on General Eagan, who asked me why the refrigerated beef had not been issued to the troops. I told him that the Combses had not wanted it, as they were getting native beef. He got very much excited over the fact and said: 'I consider that the best beef there is in the United States.'"

"Then he said with another oath: 'I consider that the best beef there is in the United States.'"

This sensational statement was made under oath to-day before a Court of Inquiry by Major John D. Black, of General Alger's staff. General Eagan was subsequently put on the stand, but the Court did not ask him whether or not he had made the statement attributed to him by Major Black.

The day's proceedings bristled with sensational evidence tending to convict Secretary Alger of favoritism to the Beef Trust and direct interest in the contracts made by the Commissary-General.

Here are some of the startling disclosures: **ARMOUR & CO. MADE A PROPOSITION TO THE COMMISSARY-GENERAL TO FURNISH THE DEPARTMENT WITH PROCESSED BEEF.**

Major Black swore that General Eagan's commissary at Ponce told him (Black) that Swift & Co. had a process by which refrigerated beef could be made to last seventy-two hours.

Captain Pomeroy, Assistant Depot Commissary, swore that Commissary H. L. Smith ordered him to give receipts for Swift's refrigerated beef that had rotted and been thrown overboard at night in the harbor of Ponce.

General Eagan swore that he submitted his awards for the Swift contract to Secretary Alger, and that the Secretary had obtained the Surgeon-General's approval of the refrigerated beef.

Under cross-examination General Eagan would not deny that Senator Hanna was present when he, Eagan, submitted a beef contract for the approval of Secretary Alger.

Eagan Admits It.

One of the features of the testimony was that General Eagan could not remember the conversations between himself and E. C. Swift. He, however, admitted that the twenty-four hours clause was inserted with his knowledge, but said he had forgotten the fact. He thus reversed himself.

The proceedings opened with the testimony of Rear Admiral Stewart, Paymaster-General of the Navy. The gist of his evidence was to show that the navy was very exacting in its specifications for tinned roast beef. The meat was subject to rigid inspection and had to conform to rules and regulations already printed. The meat, guaranteed for a year, and marked with the date of preparation.

For John D. Black, who was at Ponce on the arrival of the Manilla with 300,000 pounds of Swift's refrigerated beef, was examined at length. He said no one knew that the Manilla had arrived at Ponce, and after she had run on the reef and before she unloaded any of her meat cargo she was sent to Mayaguez in response to a call from the provisions of General Schwann.

"The various commands at Ponce," said Major Black, "were notified that there were refrigerated beef on the Manilla, but there were no regulations for it. There were only about 1,000 troops near Ponce, and yet the Manilla was sent with 300,000 pounds of beef. There were no facilities for unloading it."

Major Black then told of Eagan's profane remarks about the Manilla, who refused the beef at Porto Rico.

**Paid for Bad Beef.**

Captain F. H. Pomeroy, assistant to Major Black at Ponce and the next witness, said: "After a part of the cargo had been issued the troops complained that it was tainted and decomposed. About 5,000 or 7,000 pounds were condemned and thrown overboard at night in the harbor of Ponce. After that Colonel Smith came down to Ponce as Chief Commissary and I acted under him. He said this beef would keep several weeks without spoiling, and he was spoiled before noon. I asked him about this, and he said that the beef men had a process by which it would last seventy-two hours. He said he did not know what the process was."

In answer to questions by Colonel Davis, of the Court, Captain Pomeroy said that he had given receipts to Captain Aspinwall, of the Manilla for the good beef and the bad beef alike.

General Eagan was then put on the stand by Recorder Davis to explain his transactions with E. C. Swift. General Eagan's memory instantly failed him.

Q. There were some conversations with Swift & Co. prior to the execution of the contract. Please state to the court the substance of them.

A. I can't possibly do that. I cannot recall them.

Q. Can't you recall what the conversations were about?

A. Only in a general way that they were about the beef.

**Eagan Changed Contract.**

Finally General Eagan said he remembered E. C. Swift said that Mr. Swift considered Eagan's terms very harsh. General Eagan admitted that he submitted a draft of the proposed contract to E. C. Swift. The Court did not ask the witness what was done with the contract, or what answer Mr. Swift made.

Asked to explain the insertion of the twenty-four hour clause in the contract, Gen. Eagan surprised every one by saying he had authorized its insertion. In view of Eagan's previous testimony, the announcement in the courtroom was so obvious that the General added: "I recall, since my last testimony, that I was impelled to change the 72 hours to 24 hours, because I was afraid that we could not get proper transportation, and I felt that 24 hours from the refrigerator on shore would give ample time to reach the troops."

Major Lee, General Eagan's witness, cross-examined General Eagan. What was omitted from him started the court distinctly on several passages between the General and the witness. General Eagan was plainly rattled and boiling with rage, but he managed to pull through without getting into the profane language for which he is celebrated in the army. Major Lee began by asking questions tending to involve the Secretary of War in the beef contracts.

"Will you please state whether in any instance you exerted your own discretion with regard to such contracts, or were suggestions made to you by the Secretary of War?"

General Davis was dozing, General Wade was leaning back in his chair, and Colonel Gillespie was making notes. They all instantly sat bolt upright, shot quick glances at Lee, and turned to the witness for his reply. General Eagan pulled himself back in his chair and said elaborately: "I used my own discretion, sir."

"Really?"

It's up to Alger, too.

General Eagan grew thoughtful and inquisitive. He answered: "Well, no, sir. I did so when I made an award of a contract. Before naming a com-

# HAS GEN. ALGER PRACTICALLY QUIT THE CABINET?

Belief in Washington That He Now Retains Only His Official Title.

## POWER IN OTHER HANDS.

Subordinates Direct Department Affairs in Present Crisis While He Visits Cuba.

Washington, March 29.—Has Secretary of War Russell A. Alger given up direction of affairs in the War Department?

That he has is the belief of well posted authorities in Washington, and his absence in Cuba at this critical juncture gives plausibility to the report that he will not much longer be a factor in the Cabinet.

The Secretary is in Cuba on what is termed by courtesy a "tour of inspection," but those who adhere to the theory that he has been compelled by Administration managers to practically relinquish everything but his title point to the fact that he is touring through Cuba, where there is no prospect of a fight, and that he left here at a time when the situation at Manila was the absorbing question.

It is said the conferences at Thomasville were uniformly unfavorable to Alger, and that the President was informed that Alger's retention in the Cabinet was the greatest danger now menacing the Republic in the next campaign.

The powers of which Secretary Alger appears to have been divested are shared equally by Acting Secretary McKeljohn and Adjutant-General Corbin.

Secretary Alger, it is said, may not resign for some time, because there is no reason why he should. He is not a factor in the War Department, but he is a factor in the Administration.

General Eagan, it is said, has been ordered to submit a report on the situation in Cuba, and that he is now in Cuba on what is termed by courtesy a "tour of inspection," but those who adhere to the theory that he has been compelled by Administration managers to practically relinquish everything but his title point to the fact that he is touring through Cuba, where there is no prospect of a fight, and that he left here at a time when the situation at Manila was the absorbing question.

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# FROM PHONE BOY TO CROESUS.

## FICTION.

Wall Street Revels in a \$12 Office Boy Who Made \$75,000 by Speculation.

Wall Street, perhaps with the idea of tempting folks to come down there and get rich, was telling the story yesterday of how Daniel S. Peters, a \$12 a week telephone clerk for Lockwood, Hurd & Co., of No. 46 Broad street, had managed to clean up \$75,000 in a few weeks by happy speculation in Brooklyn Rapid Transit stock.

The yarn was a pretty one. It told how a gray-haired mother sat in a Brooklyn tenement wondering how the landlord was to be circumvented when he applied for the April rent. Suddenly the door was flung open, and her curly-headed son, threadbare and down at the heels, burst into the room, and throwing a large packet of greenbacks at the feet of his parent, exclaimed:

"Mother, we can have pie for supper tonight, and you may avoid that blue polonaise for which you have longed ever since I was born. Cheer up! Here is \$75,000 that I have won in Wall Street, every dollar of it real money that we can spend."

And Wall Street recounted the joy of the aged lady, who at once turned up the gas, now they could afford it, and the \$12 boy and she sobbed in each other's arms. A neighbor's son was sent to the nearest drug store to get something to eat, and far into the night the lucky pair broke their long drawn out fast with potato salad and other readily prepared delicacies.

"No more swimming the East River to save bridge tolls," the \$12 boy said, delightedly, according to Wall Street, "and on Sundays we can ride down to Jamaica Bay and see the crabs scurper into the deep instead of walking there as we used to have to."

And they called in the neighbors and bade them partake of the remnants of the feast. The neighbors, who were glad to see the boy and his mother, and who had been told that he was a fortune teller, and the thick slices of smoked sturgeon.

And as the last trolley car gonged its way past the humble home, what a difference was there between the circumstances of the \$12 boy and his situation a few short hours before!

The boy, who was a member of Troop C, of Brooklyn, and served in Porto Rico. They don't have \$12 telephone boys in Troop C, and \$12 boys don't have houses like this, with all the latest improvements.

"Why, during the Cuban war I actually made \$75,000," the mother said. "Isn't it funny? What a wonder you can make money!"

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# IF TRUE 'WERE PRETTY, PITY 'TISN'T TRUE.

## THE FACTS.

The Speculator Is a Highly Paid Man, Who Lives in a Handsome House.

A Journal man rang the bell of a handsome dwelling, at No. 588 Decatur street, the house of Daniel S. Peters, the boy speculator. A youth of twenty-five, wearing a quilted satin smoking jacket and puffing a thirty cent cigar, lounged up to the door.

"Yes," said he, "I'm Mr. Peters. Telephone boy for Lockwood, Hurd & Co.? Telephone number? I'm an employee of the firm, and bring them business for which they pay me a handsome salary. I lost \$20,000 a couple of months ago, but I could stand it."

"I began as a boy in Wall Street fourteen years ago, but nothing at all, but I've made a good thing of it. I've had my ups and downs. Just now I'm up. The amount, \$75,000, that you mention is about what I've made, but I can't tell the sum exactly. I'm not after notoriety."

"I made it in Brooklyn Rapid Transit, which has risen from 60 to 120. I'm going to buy a seat on the Stock Exchange. A few years ago I had nothing at all, but now I have money and a wife."

"I'm a member of Troop C, of Brooklyn, and served in Porto Rico. They don't have \$12 telephone boys in Troop C, and \$12 boys don't have houses like this, with all the latest improvements."

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